

Discussion

1. Double Patenting over claims 1-15 of U.S.P. 6,687,557

U.S.P. 6,687,557 teaches the use of a two section catalog where: the first section provides assembly process independent data used to correct and validate a product description [e.g. CAD files and Bills of Material, BoM] with respect to assembly processes and generate a valid product description that is assembly process independent; and the second section provides assembly process dependent data used to generate an assembly process dependent product description from the valid process independent product description. U.S.P. 6,687,557 addresses conflicts between the CAD files and BoM.

The present invention addresses mapping, validating, and correcting the part numbers and supplier names in the BoM and Approved Manufacturing List, which defines the supplier and supplier part number for an item, and mapping to site part numbers and supplier names. U.S.P. 6,687,557 does not teach the use of the first catalog for mapping, validation and correction of the part numbers and supplier names in a BoM or AML.

U.S.P. 6,687,557 teaches means to effectively generate the assembly process information for a product assembled at multiple locations with different assembly processes.

The present invention is a companion invention to effectively validate, correct, and map the BoM and AML for multiple locations with different part numbering systems and different supplier designations in the AML from the BoM and AML part numbering system and the supplier names in AML as provided in the original input.

U.S.P. 6,687,557 and the present invention are distinct in that the present invention may be used where two locations have the same assembly process but different part number systems and USP 6,687,557 is not required and the current invention is required. Or, two locations with the same part number systems and different assembly processes where the present invention is not required and U.S.P. 6,687,557 is required.

Like U.S.P. 6,687,557, the present invention is a two phase process. In the first phase of the present invention, the part numbers in the BoM and AML with an identifier of for the set of part numbers are mapped using the first catalog to an internal part number system and the AML supplier names are mapped to a set of internal supplier names.

If a part number or supplier name is not in the first catalog, it must be corrected and validated external to the process. Valid part numbers or supplier names are

entered into the first catalog to map to an internal part number or supplier name. Valid part numbers or supplier names with errors or an alternative representation are also entered to map to the correct internal part number or supplier name such that in subsequent mappings the error is corrected. The use of the first catalog for validation and correction is not taught in U.S.P. 6,687,557. In the second phase the part numbers in the BoM and AML are mapped from the internal part numbers and supplier names to site specific part numbers and supplier names using the second catalog.

U.S.P. 6,687,557 is mute with respect to the mapping, validation and correction of original input part numbers to an internal part number system in the first phase of the process and the mapping of the internal part numbers to location specific part numbers in the second phase.

U.S.P. 6,687,557 column 6 lines 29-33 distinguishes the patent from the present invention. "Part of the problem is the need to establish and maintain the cross-reference between the OEM part number, the EMS part number, the EMS site part number, and the supplier part number. The referenced patent application [the present invention] provides a solution to the part number problem." U.S.P. 6,687,557 was not intended to cover the present invention nor be the same invention.

2. The claims do not produce a useful, concrete, tangible result.

As suggested by the examiner, the claims are amended to provide a useful, concrete, tangible result.

3. The claims as understood are rejected as anticipated by Peterson et al U.S.P. 6,324,522 and further in view of Mantripragada et al U.S.P. 7,127,458.

Peterson teaches the use of catalogs for MRO vendors to identify and locate MRO items. These catalogs may be searched using a variety of input characteristics such as product class, manufacturer, part number, assembly number, alternate part number, UPC, or commodity code where the search can be by partial specification of the input characteristic. The result of a query provides the MRO item, quantity, price, owner, and other data. These are described in Figures 8 and 9 and the section titled Inventory Networks as cited by the Examiner.

Peterson also teaches determining the quantity for each component in an assembly and a determination of the quantity of assemblies that can be assembled from available components as illustrated in Figure 9A.

Peterson teaches that a number of catalogs can be used to query with a part number or other identifier to respond with an item description and other information. Peterson does not teach using the catalog to map, validate, or

correct an item identifier. Nor does Peterson teach using a catalog with an item identifier and a set identifier as the input.

Claim 43 has been amended to distinguish from U.S.P. 6,687,557 and Peterson and produce a useful result. My comments are in *[italics with brackets]*.

Claim 43 (Amended) A method to map and validate a first product description document, including Bills of Material or Approved Manufacturer List (AML); with a first item identifier from a first set, including part numbers or supplier names or supplier nicknames; to a second product description document with a second item identifier from a second set for a first site where the method comprises:

[Mapping and validating a product document is a useful process]

a first catalog that provides a mapping of the first item identifier and an identifier for the first set to an third item identifier from a third set; *[The first catalog input are two parts, the item identifier and a set identifier. U.S.P. 6,687,557 and Peterson do not teach a catalog with two input arguments to distinguish an item identifier from a first set that is identical to an item identifier from a second set but refer to distinctly different items.]*

a second catalog that provides a mapping of the third item identifier and a first site identifier to the second item identifier from the second set; *[The second catalog input are two parts, the item identifier and a site identifier. U.S.P. 6,687,557 and Peterson do not teach a catalog with two input arguments to distinguish the set for the selected site since the site item identifiers for an item may be different.]*

and the method further comprises the steps:

[Peterson does not teach a two step mapping process with an intermediate third item identifier from a third set.]

using the first catalog, the first item identifier in the first product description document and an identifier for the first set are mapped to the third item identifier to produce a third product description document with the third item identifier from the third set;

an item identifier in the first product description document that cannot be mapped using the first catalog must be validated and corrected externally to produce the

third product description; [U.S.P. 6,687,557 and Peterson do not teach the validation and correction of an item identifier using the first catalog. Dependent Claim 46 teaches that an representation of an item identifier that is actually a valid item identifier containing an error or an alternative representation and is added to the first catalog mapping the representation to the same third item identifier as the valid item identifier so that subsequent processing of documents with the representation will map to the correct third part number and correct the error or accommodate the alternative representation.. Dependent Claim 45 teaches augmenting the first catalog with a valid item identifier from the first set mapping to a new, unique item identifier from the third set such that subsequent processing of documents with validate the item identifier.]

using the second catalog, the third item identifier in the third product description document and a first site identifier are mapped to the second item identifier to produce a second product description with the second item identifier from the second set for the first site where the second product description can be printed, sent to a display, saved as a file, or used in subsequent information processing steps. [As suggested by the examiner, a tangible result is produced.]

The inventor asserts that the present invention is distinct from U.S.P. 6,687,557, Peterson et al U.S.P. 6,324,522, and Mantripragada et al U.S.P. 7,127,458.

Claims 43-49 are amended and Claims 56-68 are new. The claims are grouped as 43-49, 56-58; 60-64; and 65-68 where Claims 43, 60, and 65 are independent claims. Please note the claim spacing is 1.5 as were the previous submissions.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. K. Ouchi" followed by the date "5/3/07".

N. K. Ouchi, Inventor